Milton 14 Nov 1845

Dear Mrs Chapman

I feel my much flattered by your thinking us worthy to be placed beside you any where but it would not be honest to leave you under the delusion that we are with you we are in the first place so bound up with a thousand petty cares & interests that we have not time to do as you wish, but what is more to the point we do not agree with you in any thing except that there is a great deal of wickedness going on all the way from Cape Horn to Arkangel, & if we were to trust the bonds of selfishness we should enlist in a score of crusades against our own immediate enemies before we embarked for your holy land - Only think of the slaves that surround us from Dr Vinton's down to the poor shut women !!

Forgive us for declining your offers & try to believe that we can admire heroic devotedness to a cause which you think the highest, even while we cannot go with you a single step in it - My wife finds Lucia, & Margaret is highly amused at you forgetting that she retired from the world fifty years ago -

Always my dear Sons

I M Forbes

Mrs Maria Weston Chapman

Boston

1845